REMARKS

The courtesies extended to the undersigned by Examiner John T Haran during the interview held June 24, 2004 are acknowledged and appreciated. Applicants, their principal representatives in Germany, and the undersigned have carefully reviewed the Final Office Action of April 16, 2004 in the subject U.S. patent application, together with the prior art cited and relied on by the Examiner in the rejection of the claims. In response, the claims now pending in the subject application have again been amended. It is believed that the Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest effort by the undersigned to place the application in condition for allowance, without raising new issues and without requiring the Examiner to conduct additional searching. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, and allowance of the claims, is respectfully requested.

As discussed with Examiner Haran during the interview, the subject invention is directed to a method for drawing paper webs through a longitudinal folding hopper of a rotary press. It is to be noted that the drawing-in process is one that is performed for a particular time. It is a process that is used before a rotary printing press is placed into its normal or production mode of operation, to feed the paper web or webs through the various press components. This drawing-in of of the paper web or webs is accomplished through the use of a number of sequentially positioned web draw-in devices. Each such draw-in device cooperates with a specific segment of the printing press. Since there may be several alternative paper web paths through the press, each paper web drawn-in

device will extend only along a section of the overall paper web path of travel through the printing press.

As recited in currently amended claim 33, a plurality of paper webs are provided. These are seen, for example at 05, 06, 07 on Fig. 1. These paper webs are fastened together and formed into a paper web train before, in a direction of web travel, a longitudinal folding hopper, which is depicted generally at 18, again in Fig. 1. The process used to join the paper webs together to form a paper web train and are discussed at paragraphs 78, 91 and 125-128 of the Substitute Specification.

Once the paper webs have been fastened together, the resultant paper web train is drawn through the longitudinal folding hopper by a paper web draw-in device. As depicted in Figs 1,2, and 13, the paper web draw-in device may be several endless chains or belts which are each provided with a plurality of spikes over only part of their lengths. These spikes can constitute the paper web holding devices on the paper web draw-in device.

Once the web has been drawn through the longitudinal folding hopper, and the web train has been grasped by the hopper folding rollers 24 and 26, the paper train is separated from the paper web holding devices of the paper web draw-in device. This is accomplished by moving the endless belts or chains so that the spiked sections thereof are moved to a location where they no longer engage the paper web train. Once the draw-in has been accomplished, the plurality of paper webs will be separated from each other. As recited on paragraph 152 of the Substitute Specification, the locking together of the several paper webs, to form a paper web train 140 is only done temporarily. This is

reenforced by the language of original claim 2 that recited that the paper webs are connected to each other during the drawing-in process and are not connected to each other during the production phase of operation of the web-fed rotary printing press.

It is believed that currently amended claim 33 finds adequate support in the Substitute Specification of the subject application. The prior rejections of the claims, in the first Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph was addressed in the Amendment filed March 4, 2004. The currently amended claim 33, while it includes some of the method steps that were present in original claim 33, also is believed to recite only steps that are properly disclosed in the Substitute Specification. It is thus believed that claim 33, as currently amended, complies with 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Claim 33, as currently amended is also believed to be patentable over CH 34 33 41 to Sillen, relied on by the Examiner in the rejection of claim 33. That reference is directed to a folding device which is used to fold a plurality of paper webs. A back rail 5 is supported by a plurality of holders and cooperates with a pin carrier 17 to move a paper web layer along the back rail 5. A remover 27 is situated at one end of the back rail 5 and its purpose is to strip the paper webs from the pins 19 of the pin carrier. A plurality of paper webs are fed to a feed roller 29 and from there are directed to an input end 13 of the back rail 5. As the paper webs are moved along the back rail 5, they engage spaced guide bars 8. These form or fold the longitudinal paper webs. The folding is completed by an arrangement of belts and rollers, as seen in Fig. 1.

Initially, it is to be noted that the Sillen reference is not directed to a paper web draw-in device. There is no teaching, or suggestion in this reference of a paper web draw-in device with paper web holding devices that are removed from the paper web train upon completion of web draw-in. The Sillen reference also does not teach, or suggest any method for drawing paper webs through a longitudinal folding hopper which includes the steps of providing a plurality of paper webs and fastening the plurality of paper webs to each other and forming a paper web train before, In a direction of web travel, the longitudinal folding hopper. Sillen further does not show, or suggest the step of separating the plurality of paper webs in the paper web train from each other after accomplishing the drawing in of the paper web through the longitudinal folding hopper. It is thus believed that currently pending claim 33 is patentable over the prior art Stillen patent cited and relied on by the Examiner.

Claim 34 is currently amended to place its language into agreement with that of currently amended claim 33. Claim 34 depends from believed allowable currently amended claim 33 and is also believed to be allowable. It recites that the paper web train can include paper web starts. Claim 34 is believed to also be in condition for allowance.

It is noted that claims 33 and 34 were objected to because the terms "secure" and "fasten" were asserted as being used interchangeably. The claims have been reviewed and a correction has been made to claim 34. The term "fasten" is used in the context of joining of the paper webs together to form the paper web train. The term "secure" is used in the context of connecting the paper web train to the draw-in device. These are two separate operations and the two terms are believed not to be being used interchangeably.

The Examiner's courtesy in listing the two German documents, that were submitted with the Amendment of March 4, 2004, on the PTO 892 form that accompanied the Final Office Action, is appreciated.

SUMMARY

Claims 1-32 and 35-62 are cancelled. Claims 33 and 34 are currently amended. It is believed that the claims now pending in the subject U.S. patent application are patentable over the prior art cited and relied on by the Examiner. It is further believed that their submission places the application in condition for allowance, without adding any new matter and without requiring any additional searching.

Allowance of the claims, and passage of the application to issue is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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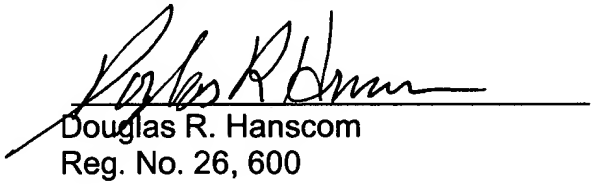

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